

## The Churches' Plea Against War and the War System

---

THE present situation in international affairs, involving as it does the imminent peril of war, must give concern to every thoughtful Christian. After a devastating conflict which has cost millions of lives, created immeasurable hatred and piled up a debt of fifty dollars for every minute of time since Christ was born, the nations of the earth, apparently having learned nothing and forgotten nothing, are once more planning the old game of competitive imperialism and competitive armament. The Church of Christ was severely blamed for the occurrence of the last war. That the Gospel should have been so long on earth and yet should have not prevented the great catastrophe with all its hideous cruelty and suffering was a charge against the Church so serious that all thoughtful ministers felt its force and were driven defensively to meet it. Even more will another war bring down upon the Church of Christ the charge of moral cowardice and fatal inefficiency.

Yet another war is being prepared in the vindictive hatreds, the nationalistic ambitions, the scheme of racial and imperial self-aggrandisement which mark the world's international relationships. The spirit of good-will and sincere cooperation for the welfare of mankind as a whole is so lamentably weak, is so openly scoffed at in influential quarters, and expectations of war are so freely voiced and preparations for it so frankly pushed, that another war is inevitable unless a better mind can speedily prevail.

There are some among us, of whom the signatories of this appeal form a small group, who regard war as the most ruinous organized sin which mankind now faces; who are sure that the war system and the Christian Gospel cannot permanently abide together on the same earth; who see clearly that the spirit of war and the spirit of the Gospel are antithetical, the one representing what the other hates and would destroy; who recognize that war is futile as a means of furthering Christ's Kingdom, even where the end sought is righteous and where the spirit of the combatants is sacrificial.

Our position in this appeal does not involve theoretical pacifism; we are not concerned to deny the necessity of using force, massed force, it may be in an emergency, nor of a moderate military organization for defensive purposes. But the war system is not an appeal to force in an emergency—it is a long drawn out and deliberate preparation for the use of every known means of cruel and collective destruction. It rests upon the assumption that the welfare of one people involves the ruin of another and it plans far ahead of the event to be able to compass that ruin. It represents the deliberate organization of the world into isolated and armed peoples, suspicious of each other, hating each other, waiting to fall upon each other, instead of sanely cooperating peoples finding the best interests of all fulfilled in a decent, peaceable and reasonable fellowship.

We will not believe that mankind is so deficient in character and intelligence as to make the rational solution of our international problems impossible and to commit us to the continued rule of insane fear, hatred and collective destruction. And we are certain that unless the Church of Christ takes now a clear and consistent stand on this

matter of life and death to our civilization and to the world, she will merit the contempt of men and the judgment of God.

We therefore urge all the people of the churches, and all ministers in particular, to an outspoken declaration that the war system and the Gospel of Christ are diametrically and irreconcilably opposed. We urge that without delay this crisis of decision between war and Christ be unmistakably recognized and stated. We would have every Christian church the center of a frank and courageous antagonism to war and everything that makes war, until in our own country and in all lands we succeed in reinstating Christian loyalty to Christ where it belongs—far above all local prejudice, racial hatred, and divisive nationalism. We are convinced that no question faces the people of God more crucial than this and we have thought it worth while to make this appeal in the hope that our conviction might be shared by the general body of the Church of Christ.

Abernethy, W. S., Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, D. C.

Ainslie, Peter, Pastor Christian Temple, Baltimore, Md.

Albertson, Charles C., Pastor Central Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Anderson, C. P., Bishop of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

Anderson, William F., Bishop Methodist Episcopal Church, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Anthony, Alfred Williams, Executive Secretary of Home Mission Council, New York City.

Armstrong, Arthur H., Executive Secretary, Church Federation of St. Louis, Mo.

Atkins, G. Glenn, Pastor First Congregational Church, Detroit, Mich.

Atkinson, Henry A., General Secretary of the Church Peace Union and World Alliance, New York City.

Babson, Roger W., Statistician.

Barton, William E., Pastor Oak Park Congregational Church, Illinois.

Batten, Samuel Z., Secretary, American Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia, Pa.

Beale, Charles H., Pastor, Grand Avenue Congregational Church, Milwaukee, Wis.

Bell, William M., Bishop of the United Brethren in Christ, Harrisburg, Pa.

Best, Nolan R., Editor, The Continent, New York City.

Boynton, Nehemiah, Chairman, International Committee of World Alliance for International Friendship through the Churches, New York City.

Boynton, M. R., Pastor, Bryn Mawr Community Congregational Church, Chicago, Ill.

Bradley, Daniel F., Pastor, Pilgrim Congregational Church, Cleveland, Ohio.

Brent, Charles H., Bishop, Protestant Episcopal Church, Buffalo, N. Y.

Brockman, F. S., International Y. M. C. A. Association, New York City.

Brown, Arthur J., Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., New York City.

Brown, Charles R., Dean, Yale School of Religion, New Haven, Conn.

Bryan, William Jennings, Statesman, Miami, Fla.

Burnham, F. W., President, United Christian Missionary Society, St. Louis, Mo.

Burton, Charles E., Secretary, National Congregational Churches, New York City.

Bushnell, J. E., Pastor, Westminster Chapel, Minneapolis, Minn.

Butterfield, Kenyon L., President, Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst, Mass.

Cadman, S. Parkes, Pastor, Central Congregational Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Caldwell, R. J., Manufacturer, President American Mid-European Association, New York City.

Calkins, Raymond, Pastor, First Congregational Church, Cambridge, Mass.

Cannon, James, Jr., Bishop, Methodist Episcopal Church, Washington, D. C.

Carter, Charles F., Pastor, Emmanuel Congregational Church, Hartford, Conn.

Cavert, Samuel McCrea, General Secretary, Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, New York City.

Clark, Francis E., President, United Society of Christian Endeavour Society, Boston, Mass.

Clark, John E., Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Coffin, Henry Sloane, Pastor, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City.

Conrad, A. Z., Pastor, Park Street Church, Boston, Mass.

Corey, Stephen J., Secretary, Foreign Mission Society, Disciples of Christ, St. Louis, Mo.

Covert, William Chalmers, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Ill.

Cummings, Edward S., General Secretary, World Peace Foundation, Boston, Mass.

Dabney, Charles W., University President, Houston, Texas.

Davis, Ozora S., President, Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, Ill.

Day, James Roscoe, Chancellor Emeritus, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y.

Day, William Horace, Pastor United Church, Bridgeport, Conn.

Dixon, A. G., General Secretary, Board of Young People's Work of the Methodist Protestant Church, Baltimore, Md.  
 Dodge, Cleveland H., Merchant, New York City.  
 Duggan, Stephen P., Director, Institute of International Education, New York City.  
 Eagan, John J., Manufacturer, Atlanta, Ga.  
 Eaves, George, Clergyman, Secretary, Alabama Tuberculosis Committee, Birmingham, Ala.  
 Faber, William Frederic, Bishop of Montana, Protestant Episcopal Church.  
 Faunce, W. H. P., President, Brown University, Providence, R. I.  
 Fisher, Irving, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.  
 Fitch, Albert Parker, Professor, Amherst College, Amherst, Mass.  
 Forbes, Mrs. J. Malcolm, Milton, Mass.  
 Fosdick, Raymond B., Lawyer, New York City.  
 Fosdick, Harry Emerson, Professor, Union Theological Seminary, New York City.  
 Freeman, James E., Rector, Church of the Epiphany, Washington, D. C.  
 Frey, John P., Editor, International Molders Journal, Cincinnati, Ohio.  
 Gailor, Thomas F., Bishop, President of National Council, Protestant Episcopal Church, New York City.  
 Gardiner, Robert H., Business man, Gardinar, Maine.  
 Goodell, C. L., Executive Secretary of the Commission on World Evangelism of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, New York City.  
 Gilkey, Charles W., Pastor, Hyde Park Baptist Church, Chicago, Ill.  
 Gordon, John, Pastor, 2nd Congregational Church, Rockford, Ill.  
 Gordon, Linley V., Associate Secretary of the Church Peace Union, New York City.  
 Guild, Roy B., Executive Secretary, Inter Church Federation of Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, New York City.  
 Hall, Frank Oliver, Professor, Tufts College, Boston, Mass.  
 Haven, William I., General Secretary of the American Bible Society, New York City.  
 Hillis, Newell Dwight, Pastor, Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
 Holt, Hamilton, Editor, Independent Corporation, New York City.  
 Hough, Lynn Harold, Central Methodist Episcopal Church, Detroit, Mich.  
 Hudnut, William H., Presbyterian Minister, Youngstown, Ohio.  
 Hughes, Edwin H., Bishop, Methodist Episcopal Church, Boston Area.  
 Huget, J. Percival, Minister, The Tompkins Avenue Congregational Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
 Idelman, Finis S., Pastor, Central Church of Disciples of Christ, New York City.  
 Inman, Samuel G., Executive Secretary, American Section of the Committee on Cooperation in Latin America, New York City.  
 Irwin, Will, Writer, New York City.  
 Jefferson, Charles E., Pastor, Broadway Tabernacle Church, New York City.  
 Jenkins, Burris, Pastor, Linwood Ave. Disciples of Christ Church, Kansas City, Mo.  
 Jones, M. Ashby, Pastor, Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga.  
 Jones, Edgar de Witt, Pastor, Central Christian Church, Detroit, Mich.  
 Jordan, David Starr, Stanford University, California.  
 Joy, James R., Editor, The Christian Advocate, New York City.  
 Kearns, Ralph D., Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Flint, Mich.  
 King, Henry C., President, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio.  
 Kresge, E. E., Pastor, Dubbs Memorial Church, Allentown, Pa.  
 Laidlaw, Harriett B., Vice-Chairman of the Women's Pro-League Council (Non-Partisan), New York City.  
 Latourette, K. S., Professor, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.  
 Lawrence, Marion, Secretary, International Sunday School Association.  
 Lawson, Albert G., President Baptist Educational Society, State of New York.  
 Lee, Ivy L., Publicist, New York City.  
 Levermore, Charles H., Secretary, New York Peace Society, New York City.  
 Lord, Rivington D., Baptist Minister, Member Board of Managers, American Baptist Home, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
 Lynch, Frederick, Educational Secretary of The Church Peace Union, Editor of the Christian Work, New York City.  
 Mackenzie, W. Douglas, President, Hartford Seminary Foundation, Hartford, Conn.  
 Macfarland, Charles S., General Secretary, Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, New York City.  
 Main, J. H. T., President, Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa.  
 Marquis, John A., General Secretary, Board of Home Missions, Presbyterian Church, New York City.  
 Mathews, Shailer, Dean, Divinity School, Chicago University, Ill.  
 Mathews, Paul, Protestant Episcopal, Bishop of New Jersey.  
 Maurer, Irving, Pastor, First Congregational Church, Columbus, Ohio.  
 McAfee, Cleland B., Professor, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Ill.  
 McConnell, Francis J., Bishop, Methodist Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 McCormick, Samuel B., Chancellor Emeritus, University of Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 McDonald, James G., Chairman, Foreign Policy Association, New York City.



McGiffert, A. C., Professor, Union Theological Seminary, New York City.  
 Merrill, William P., Pastor, Brick Presbyterian Church, Chairman Board of Trustees of the Church Peace Union, New York City.  
 Miller, Rufus W., Editor of religious publications, Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Monroe, Paul, Director, School of Education, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City.  
 Moore, John M., Pastor, Marcy Avenue Baptist Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
 Moore, Eva Perry, President, National Council of Women, St. Louis, Mo.  
 Morgan, Wm. Fellowes, Business man, New York City.  
 Morrison, Charles Clayton, Editor, Christian Century, Chicago, Ill.  
 Mott, John R., General Secretary, International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations, New York City.  
 Murlin, D. H., President, Boston University.  
 Newton, Joseph Fort, Pastor, Church of the Divine Paternity, New York City.  
 North, Frank Mason, Ex-President Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, New York City.  
 O'Connell, Cardinal, Archbishop, Roman Catholic Church, Boston, Mass.  
 Peabody, Francis G., Theologian, Professor Emeritus, Cambridge, Mass.  
 Pennybacker, Anna J. H., President, Chautauqua Woman's Club.  
 Plimpton, George A., Publisher, Treasurer, The Church Peace Union, New York City.  
 Poe, Clarence, President and Editor of the Progressive Farmer, Memphis, Tenn.  
 Potter, Rockwell, D.D., Pastor, First Congregational Church, Hartford, Conn.  
 Powell, E. L., Pastor, First Christian Church, Louisville, Ky.  
 Rall, Harris Franklin, Professor, Garrett Biblical Institute, Ill.  
 Remensnyder, Junius B., President, General Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in U. S. A., New York City.  
 Revell, Fleming H., Publisher, New York City.  
 Rogers, Henry Wade, Judge Circuit Court, New York City.  
 Schrembs, Joseph, Bishop of Cleveland, Roman Catholic Church.  
 Shanklin, Wm. A., President, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn.  
 Shannon, Frederick F., Pastor, Central Church, Chicago, Illinois.  
 Sheldon, Charles M., Editor-in-Chief of the Christian Herald, New York City.  
 Short, William H., Boston, Mass.  
 Smith, Frank G., Pastor, First Central Congregational Church, Omaha, Nebraska.  
 Smith, Fred B., Chairman of the Commission on Councils of Churches of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, New York.  
 Stone, John Timothy, Pastor, Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Director Chicago Bible Society.  
 Swearingen, Henry Chapman, Presbyterian Minister, St. Paul, Minn.  
 Thirkield, Wilbur, P., Bishop Methodist Episcopal Church, Mexico City, Mexico.  
 Thompson, Charles L., Chairman Home Missions Council, New York City.  
 Tippy, Worth M., Executive Secretary, Commission on the Church and Social Service, Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, New York City.  
 Thwing, Charles F., Ex-President, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.  
 Vanderlip, Frank A., Banker, New York City.  
 White, Charles L., Executive Secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, New York City.  
 Wickersham, George W., Ex-Attorney General of U. S. A., New York City.  
 Wilder, Robert P., General Secretary, Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, New York City.  
 Willett, Herbert L., Theologian, Professor University of Chicago.  
 Williams, Charles D., Protestant Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan, Detroit.  
 Williams, Talcott, Dean, School of Journalism, Columbia University, New York City.  
 Wilson, Clarence H., Pastor, Congregational Church, Glen Ridge, N. J.  
 Winchester, James R., Protestant Episcopal, Bishop of Arkansas.  
 Winston, Donald, Associate Secretary of the Commission on International Justice and Goodwill of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, New York City.  
 Woelfkin, Cornelius, Pastor, Fifth Avenue Church, President American Baptist Foreign Missionary Society, New York City.  
 Wood, Charles, Pastor, Church of the Covenant, Washington, D. C.  
 Woolley, Mary E., President, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Mass.  
 Zahniser, Charles Reed, Executive Secretary, Pittsburgh Council of Churches.  
 Zaring, E. Robb, Editor, Northwestern Christian Advocate, Chicago, Ill.

This printed statement will be furnished at the rate of  
 \$2.00 per hundred or \$15.00 per thousand, postpaid

*Issued by the*  
**World Alliance for International Friendship Through the Churches**  
**70 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.**